

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WARSAW 04800 151538Z

43

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 TRSE-00 OPIC-12 CIEP-03

DRC-01 RSC-01 /054 W

----- 080776

R 151501Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 581

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY BONN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE WARSAW 4800

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, PL

SUBJECT: POLISH-WEST GERMAN TRADE RELATIONS

PASS COMMERCE FOR BEWT/LOTARSKI

VIENNA FOR EWTC

A RECENT ARTICLE IN EASTERN EUROPEAN REPORT, A BIWEEKLY PUBLICATION OF BUSINESS INTERNATIONAL, CLAIMED THAT POLISH FOREIGN TRADE ENTERPRISES HAD RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLY TO ALL WEST GERMAN GOODS A PRICE INDEXING SYSTEM WHICH WOULD EFFECTIVELY RAISE THE PRICE OF THESE GOODS BY 10 PERCENT IN COMPARISON WITH GOODS FROM OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES. THE PURPOSE OF THIS INDEXING SYSTEM, SAID THE ARTICLE, WAS TO REDUCE THE COMPETITIVENESS OF GERMAN IMPORTS AND ENCOURAGE POLISH IMPORTERS TO SEEK ALTERNATE SOURCES IN THE WEST. WHEN ASKED TO COMMENT ON THIS ARTICLE, A MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFF THAT THE REPORT WAS INCORRECT. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT DISCUSSIONS HAD BEEN HELD WITHIN THE GOP ON THIS ISSUE AND THAT THE INDEXING SYSTEM HAD BEEN PROPOSED. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT POLISH ECONOMISTS HAD ARGUED SUCCESSFULLY THAT ARTIFICIAL INFLATION OF THE PRICE OF GOODS FROM ONE SOURCE WOULD PREVENT MAXIMIZATION OF THE

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BENEFITS OF IMPORTS AND WOULD ENCOURAGE IRRATIONALITY

IN IMPORT POLICY, HE DENIED THAT AN ACROSS-THE-BOARD
INCREASE OF IMPORT PRICES WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION.
DAVIS

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: golinofr
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